Proposal to Privatise the Tourism Projects in some States

3547. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to privatise the tourism projects in some States;

(b) if so, the details of such States;

(c) whether those State Governments have sought clearance from the Central Government for this purpose; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) to (d) The State Government do not require any clearance from the Department of Tourism, Government of India, to privatise State tourism projects.

Income tax evasion in film Industry

3548. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of raids conducted by team of Bombay Income Tax Department for violation of income tax evasion under Income Tax Act by the film stars during the last three years;

(b) whether according to latest estimates there is tax evasion/leakage to the extent of more than Rs. 50,000 crore per annum in the film industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether steps have been taken against defaulters to recover income tax arrears outstanding against them for more than three years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The Income Tax Department, Bombay has not conducted any search under the Income Tax Act on the film stars during the last three years.

(b) and (c) No such estimate is available.

(d) Appropriate action as per the provisions of the Income Tax Act is taken against the tax defaulters for recovery of arrears.

Import of Second Hand Machinery Through Calcutta Customs

3549. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details and number of exporters who have imported second hand machineries through Calcutta customs during the past one year;

(b) whether it is a fact that Custom Authorities in Calcutta have been delaying disposal of cases pertaining to imports of second hand machinery and also imposing heavier duties thereon;

(c) whether delay in handling the cases has tremendously overrun the cost of second hand machines;

(d) whether importers of such machines are still unable to get these cleared due to consistent non cooperation of Calcutta customs; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The details and number of consignments of second hand machinery imported by 100% Export Oriented Units and units covered by Export Promotion Capital Goods scheme are enclosed at Annexure. *[See Appendix 178, Annexure No. 83]* There may be some other consignments imported by exporters who have not been identified as such.

(b) No delay has been reported regarding clearance of consignment of second hand machinery. Assessment is done at the prescribed rate of duty prevailing on the date of import and there has been no case of imposition of higher duties by customs authorities at Calcutta.